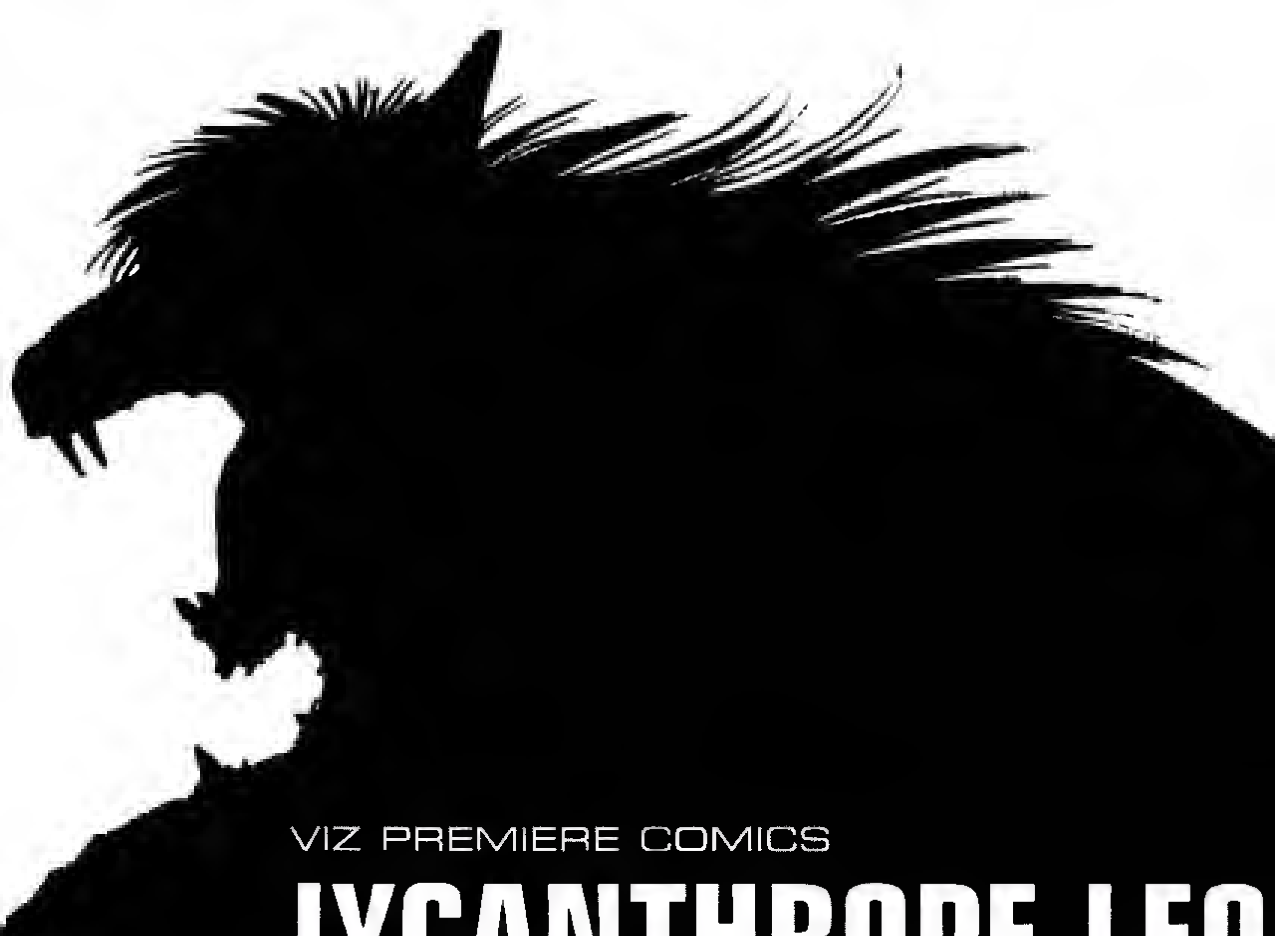
VIZ PREMIERE COMICS
$2.95 USA/$4.00 CAN
LYCANTHROPE
LEIJI
Story by
Kengo Kaji
Art by
Kenji Okamura
1



VIZ PREMIERE COMICS

# LYCANTHROPE LEO 1

STORY BY **KENGO KAJI**

ART BY **KENJI OKAMURA**

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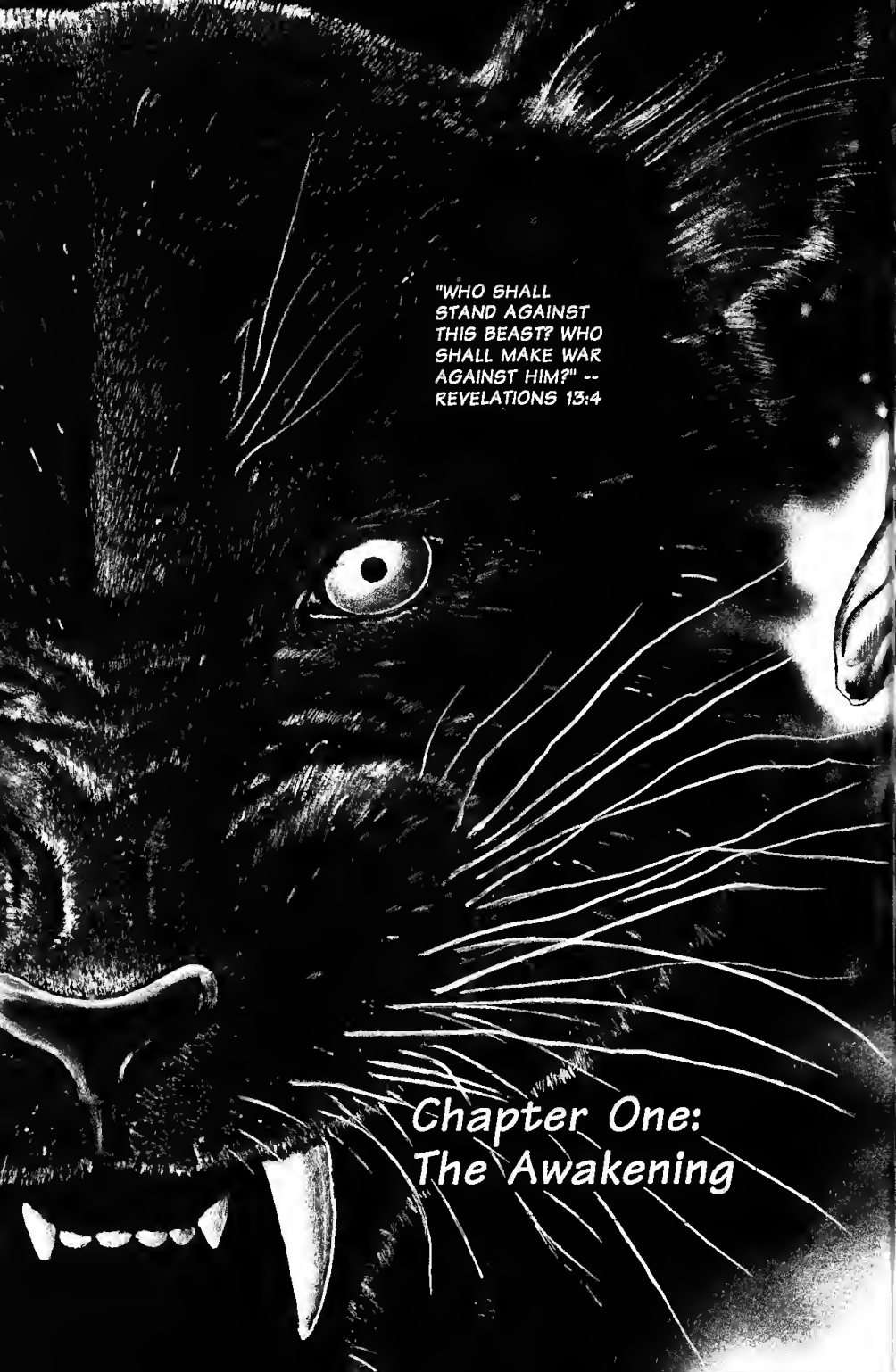
IN DAYS LONG SINCE PASSED, HUMANS WORSHIPPED THE BEASTS OF THE FIELD, AIR, AND WATER -- WORSHIPPED THEM AS GODS.
IN TIME, THE GODS WERE TAMED -- AS LIVESTOCK AND AS FRIENDS.
BUT THAT FRIENDSHIP ENDED... WHEN THE HUMANS DECIDED TO RULE OVER ALL THE CREATURES OF THE EARTH.
NOW, 550 SPECIES OF MAMMALS ALONE...
...ARE FACING EXTINCTION.
PERSECUTED AND HUNTED DOWN, THE BEAST...
SUBWAY
SILENTLY WAITS FOR THE COMING OF THE TIME OF REVENGE ...

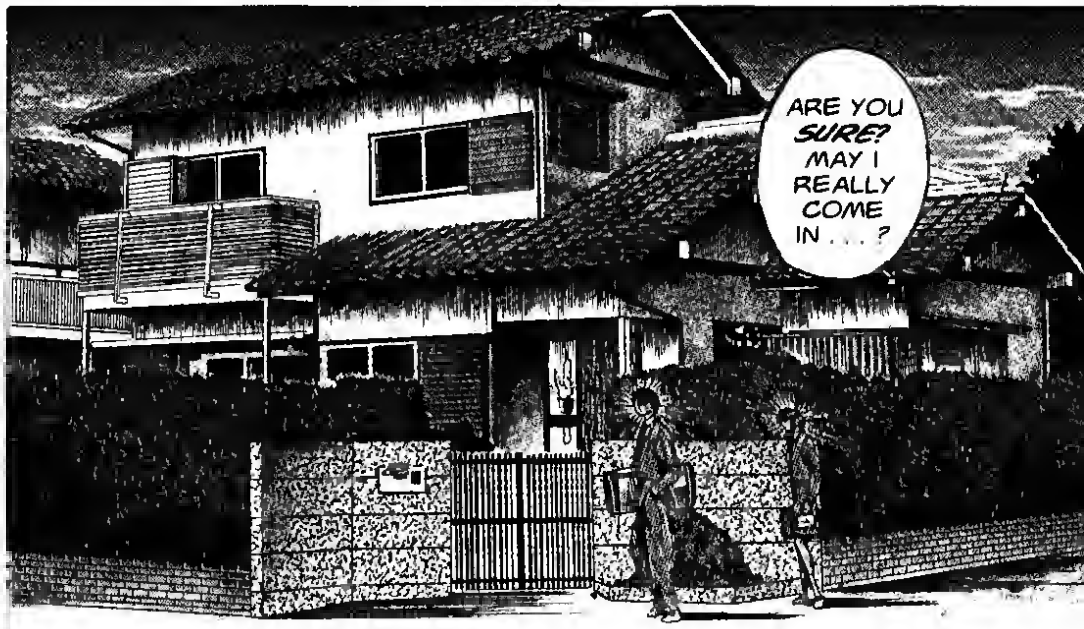

"WHO SHALL STAND AGAINST THIS BEAST? WHO SHALL MAKE WAR AGAINST HIM?" -- REVELATIONS 13:4
Chapter One: The Awakening

1994 -- TOKYO
TAM
KAGHIK
HUH!? YOU'VE GOT TO BE KIDDING!
WHAT --? DID I BEAT MY BEST TIME!?

START
LEO!
8.80 SECONDS !?
IF THAT'S ACCURATE, THEN LEO AIN'T EVEN HUMAN . . .
NOT EVEN CARL LEWIS CAN BREAK THE 9.8 SECOND MARK!
WHAT!? 8.80 SECONDS!?
BUT THAT'S WHAT IT SAYS . . .
BOY, I WAS SHOCKED THERE FOR A SECOND . . .
YEAH, YOU'RE RIGHT . . . I MUST'VE MESSED UP!
. . . I HAVE BEEN FEELING AWFULLY ENERGETIC LATELY!
THAT RUN FELT GREAT! MAYBE THE TIME ISN'T WRONG AFTER ALL...
HMM . . . ?
WELLLL . . .
YEAH, RIGHT!
WUD
PONK
OW!
IDIOT!
BAF
HA, HA, HA! YEAH, I GUESS SO!
HA HA HA

MAN . . . IF ONLY I'D BEEN ABLE TO RUN LIKE THAT DURING THE SUMMER TOURNA-MENT . . . !
BUT EVERY DAY NOW, MY CONDITION'S GETTING BETTER AND BETTER -- YOU NOTICE, KYOKO?

I'VE GOT THE STOP-WATCH, DON'T I? HEY, THERE'S ALWAYS NEXT YEAR, LEO!
I GUESS . . .


ARE YOU SURE? MAY I REALLY COME IN . . . ?

SURE, WHY NOT? EVER SINCE MOM DIED, IT'S JUST DAD AND ME . . .
AND HE'S A COP, SO HE COMES HOME WAY LATE. DON'T WORRY
CHAK
ROWF ROWF
HMM . . . PANJA MUST'VE SMELLED THE CAKE!
SCRE
WHA --!?
GRRR
GRAOWR
ROOWR
WH-WHAT'S UP, PANJA?
WHAT'S WITH YOU?

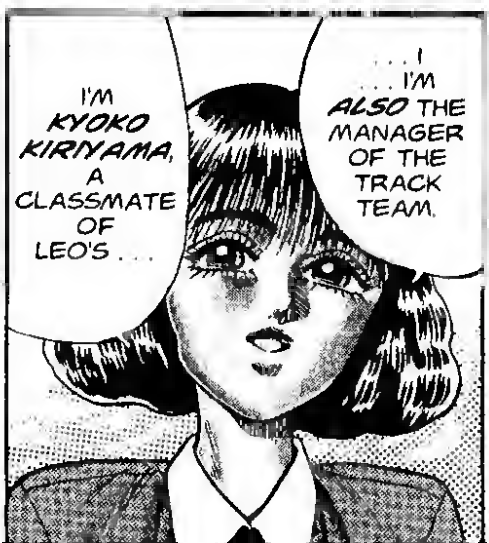
COOL IT, PANJA . . . GOOD DOG.
RRR
OH . . . !
D-DAD !?

SO . . . WHO'S THE GIRL?

HUH!?
AH . . . WELL . . . UH . . .

HAVE A VERY HAPPY BIRTHDAY, LEO!
WELL I'VE GOTTA BE GOING NOW. .
FUP
KYOKO ?

CHAK
H-HEY! YOU CAN STAY FOR SOME--


I'M KYOKO KIRIYAMA, A CLASSMATE OF LEO'S . . .
. . . I . . . I'M ALSO THE MANAGER OF THE TRACK TEAM.

LEO . . .

SHE JUST WANTED TO HELP ME CELEBRATE MY BIRTHDAY . . . !
DAD! IT'S NOTHING!
HERE! IF YOU'RE HOME, YOU COULD AT LEAST PICK UP THE PAPER!
FLOP
GRRR
RRR
HE'S SCARED!? BUT HE'S LOVED LEO SINCE HE WAS A PUP. . .
NO . . . IT COULDN'T BE HAPPENING -- COULD IT!?
OH, MAN! AND HERE I WAS IN SUCH A GREAT MOOD ABOUT MY 100-METER TRACK RECORD!
TRACK RECORD?
FOOP
!!
YEAH, AN INCREDIBLE TIME! 8.80 SECONDS! THAT'D MAKE EVEN CARL LEWIS GREEN WITH ENVY!

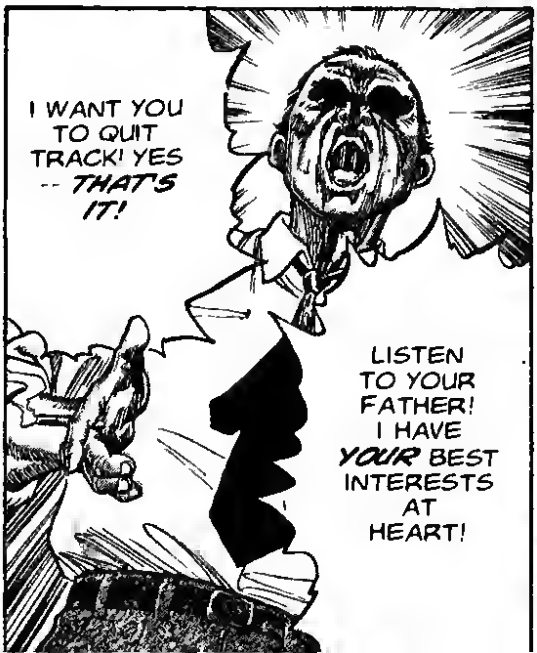
COURSE, IT WAS A TIMING ERROR!
NOT EVEN *ME*, THE GREAT TRACK *STAR*, CAN DO SOMETHING LIKE *THAT!*
YOU'RE SEVENTEEN TODAY, RIGHT?

YOU'RE IN YOUR JUNIOR YEAR NOW! YOU SHOULD BE GETTING READY FOR COLLEGE!
NOT ONLY DO YOU WASTE YOUR TIME IN *TRACK*, IGNORING YOUR STUDIES, YOU TRY TO *SNEAK* A GIRL INTO *MY* HOUSE WHILE I'M AWAY!
H-HEY, HOLD ON! KYOKO ISN'T A *GIRL!* I MEAN . . .

. . .
YEAH . . .

WHAT'S SO GREAT ABOUT A TRACK STAR!
WHY DO YOU HAVE TO KEEP CALLING ATTENTION TO YOURSELF!?
*YOU SHOULD BE NORMAL! JUST LIKE ANY OTHER AVERAGE HUMAN BEING!*

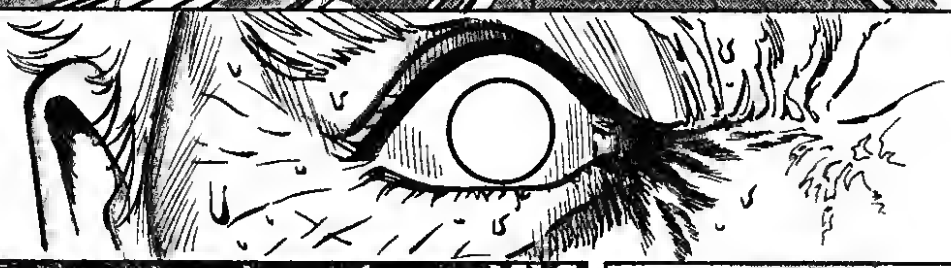
DAD . . . ?

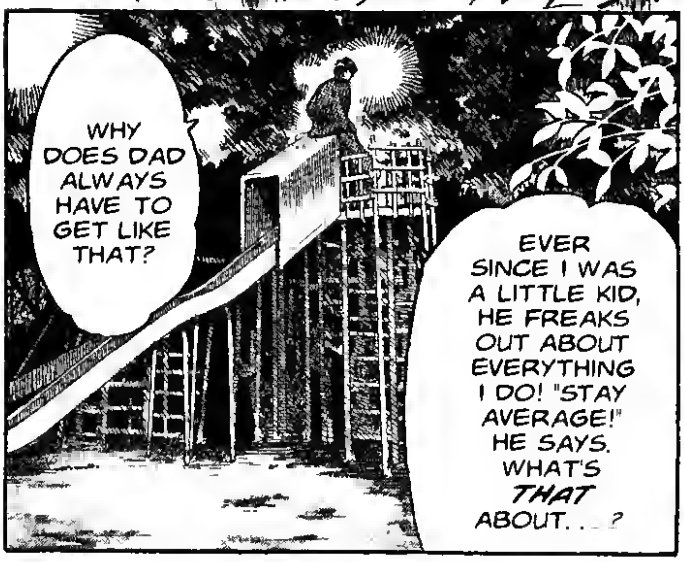

I WANT YOU TO QUIT TRACK! YES -- *THAT'S IT!*
LISTEN TO YOUR FATHER! I HAVE *YOUR* BEST INTERESTS AT HEART!

SHOOM
I'VE HEARD ENOUGH!

YOU'RE HOME EARLY FOR A CHANGE, AND ALL I GET IS THIS!
I'M SICK TO DEATH OF YOUR LECTURES!
SHAP
LEO, WAIT . . . !
RRR
ARF
ARF
ARF
SHUT UP, YOU DUMB DOG!
BAM
YULP
YULP
LEO, YOU COME BACK HERE!
TWITCH
TWITCH

TITCH
UNNH
TITCH
TITCH

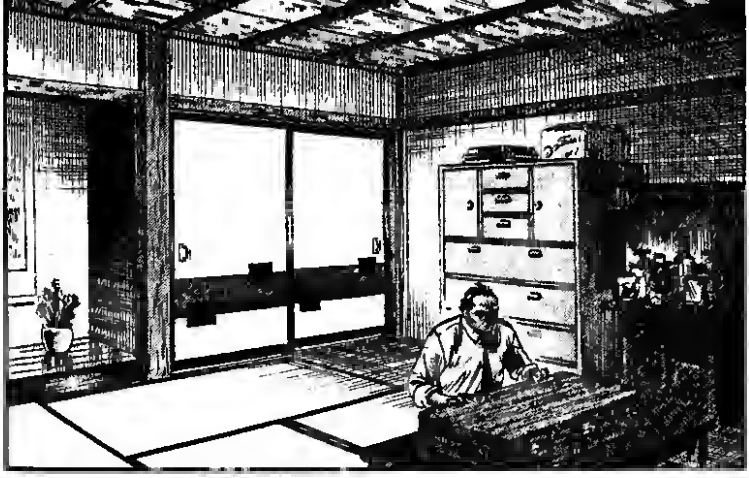



WHY DOES DAD ALWAYS HAVE TO GET LIKE THAT?
EVER SINCE I WAS A LITTLE KID, HE FREAKS OUT ABOUT EVERYTHING I DO! "STAY AVERAGE!" HE SAYS. WHAT'S *THAT* ABOUT...?

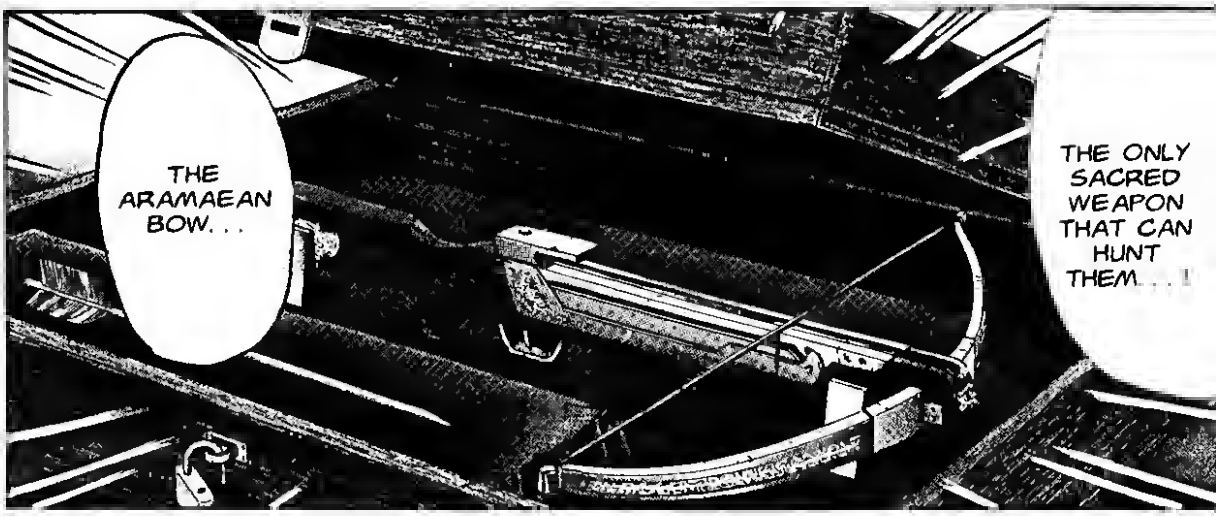
BUT *TODAY*
TODAY, HE WAS *REALLY* STRANGE. I WONDER IF HE HAD A BAD DAY AT WORK OR *WHAT...?*

BRRING
BRRING

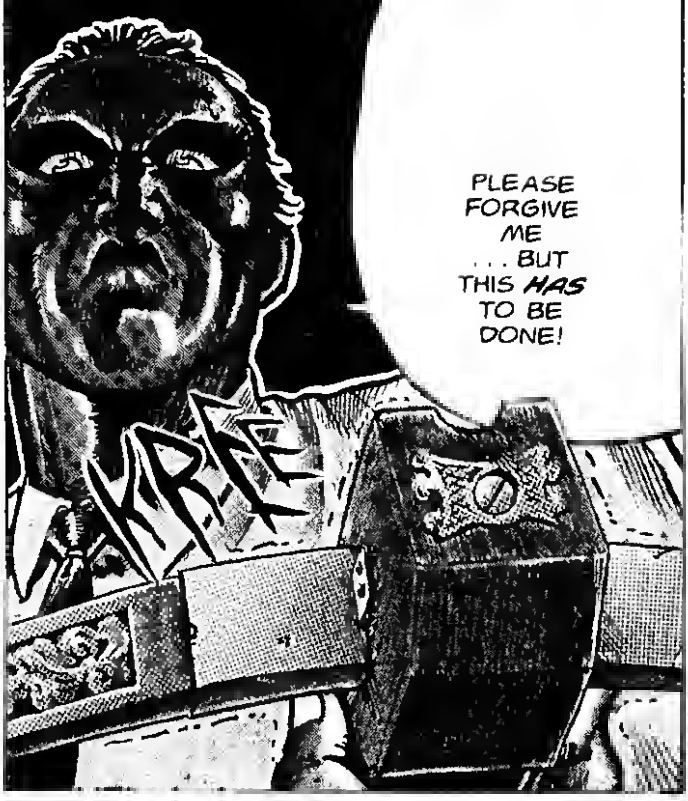
H-HELLO, TAKIZAWA RESIDENCE.
HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN OUR SACRED LAW?
WHA--!?
WHAT DID YOU SAY!?
I KNOW YOU'VE GOT ONE IN YOUR HOME!
TO HUNT THEM DOWN IS OUR MISSION...
WH-WHO IS THIS? WHO'S THERE?
HUNT IT DOWN!
TH-THEY KNOW... BUT HOW?!
UNH
UNH
ARE THEY ALREADY TAKING ACTION!?
TO ATONE FOR YOUR SIN...
...YOU KNOW WHAT TO DO! BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE...

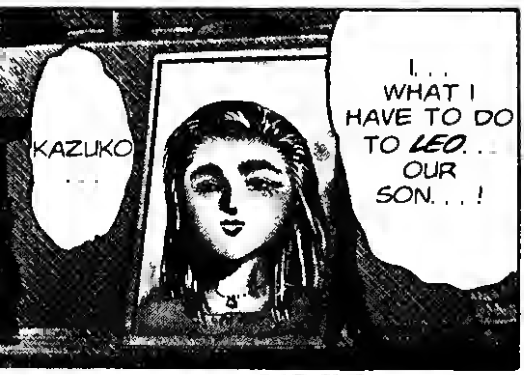


CREE

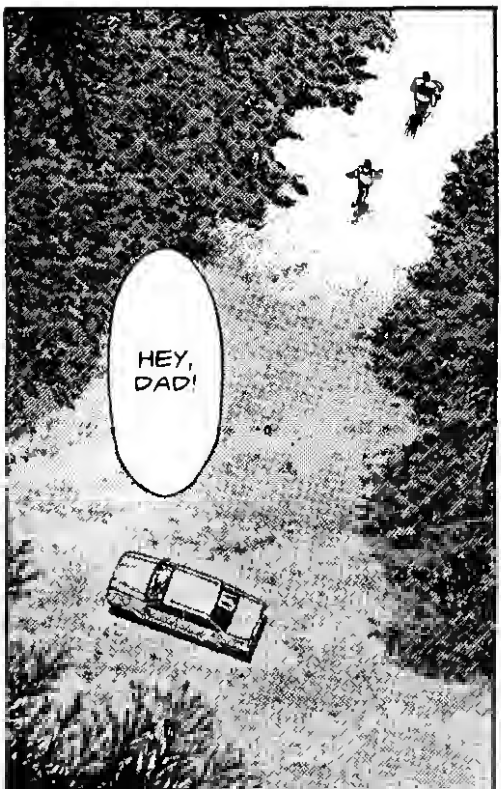

THE ARAMAEAN BOW. . .
THE ONLY SACRED WEAPON THAT CAN HUNT THEM. . . !

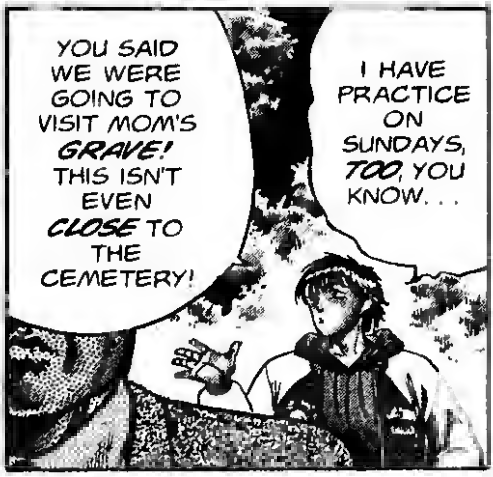
SEVENTEEN YEARS SINCE I LAST USED THIS. . . !
SHAA
SHAA
SHAA
SHAA
SHAA
SHAA


PLEASE FORGIVE ME . . . BUT THIS *HAS* TO BE DONE!


KAZUKO . . .
I . . . WHAT I HAVE TO DO TO *LEO* . . . OUR SON . . . !

NOW THAT MY . . . *COMRADES* . . KNOW, I MUST BE THE ONE TO DO IT . . . !


HEY, DAD!


YOU SAID WE WERE GOING TO VISIT MOM'S *GRAVE!* THIS ISN'T EVEN *CLOSE* TO THE CEMETERY!
I HAVE PRACTICE ON SUNDAYS, *TOO*, YOU KNOW . . .

YOU LISTENING, DAD--?

WHAT'S GOING ON -- BRINGING ME TO THIS CREEPY CABIN?

WAIT! I GET IT! YOU BROUGHT ME HERE TO APOLO-GIZE.
ONE OF THOSE FATHER-SON BONDING THINGS...
PAP!
SHUT THE DOOR, LEO!

...OKAY.
CRK

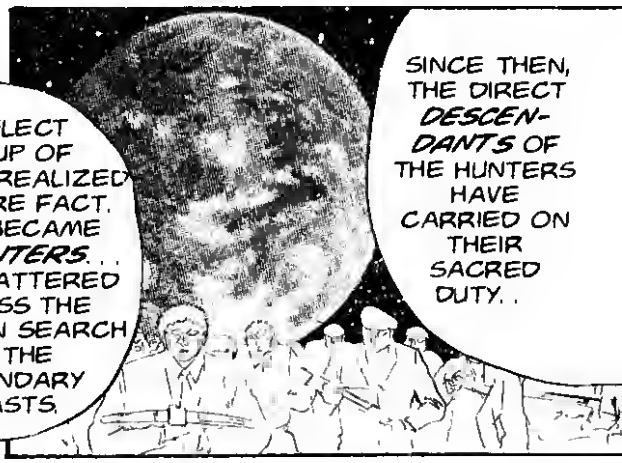
SO I GUESS WE'RE NOT MAKING UP...
...BUT WHY THE HECK DID YOU DRAG ME ALL THE WAY OUT HERE...?

PLOP
PLOP
PLOP
WH-WHAT ARE YOU SAYING!?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY THAT!?
YOU ARE VISITING YOUR MOTHER'S GRAVE. . . !
SHAKA SHAKA
KAZUKO, THE WOMAN WHO RAISED YOU AS HER OWN, IS NOT YOUR REAL MOTHER!
WH--
WHAT !?
KA

AGES AGO, DUE TO GENETIC MUTATIONS, BEASTS WITH THE ABILITY TO METAMORPHOSE INTO HUMANS WERE BORN.
THOSE BEASTS USED THEIR STRANGE POWERS TO INFILTRATE HUMAN SOCIETY AND LIVE ON. . .

HOLD ON A SECOND! WHAT THE HECK ARE YOU *TALKING* ABOUT!?
*THE BLOOD TRIBE OF THE BEASTS* HAD PHYSICAL CAPABILITIES *FAR BEYOND* THAT OF *MERE* HUMANITY. . .
. . .

THE HALF MAN/HALF BEASTS IN THE LEGENDS REALLY EXISTED. . . AND THEIR POWER WAS A THREAT TO ALL MANKIND!
A SELECT GROUP OF PEOPLE REALIZED THIS DIRE FACT. THEY BECAME THE *HUNTERS*. . . AND SCATTERED ACROSS THE GLOBE IN SEARCH OF THE LEGENDARY BEASTS.


SINCE THEN, THE DIRECT *DESCENDANTS* OF THE HUNTERS HAVE CARRIED ON THEIR SACRED DUTY. .

H FF
H FF H FF
. . . "TO SLAY THE BEASTS BEFORE THE KILLING AGE IS UPON THEM" . . .!

THAT IS THE SACRED LAW OF WE HUNTERS!
BOOM
RMMB
"WE" . . .
BM
"HUNT-ERS" . . . ?
STOP ALL THIS CRAZY TALK!
WERE-WOLVES AND PHONY MOTHERS -- HAVE YOU TOTALLY LOST IT?!
SEVENTEEN YEARS AGO, IN THIS CABIN. . .
. . . I HUNTED AND KILLED YOUR REAL MOTHER!
YOU. . . WHAT !?
YOUR MOTHER WAS OF THE BLOOD TRIBE. . . !

MOM... MY...?
D-DAD! WHY ARE YOU DOING THIS TO ME!?
PLEASE, STOP IT! I DON'T UNDER-STAND!
THE FEMALE I HAD HUNTED WAS WITH CHILD
SHARP
YOU, LEO, YOU!
FWOK
!!
A... AH AH...!?
KAZUKO AND I WERE WITHOUT A CHILD, AND EVEN THOUGH I KNEW IT TO BE A SIN, I HAVE RAISED YOU UP UNTIL NOW...!

BUT THE KILLING AGE IS UPON YOU! IN YOUR SEVENTEENTH YEAR, YOU WILL JOIN THE BLOOD TRIBE. . . YOU WILL TAKE THE FORM OF THE BEAST.
AFTER THIS FIRST METAMORPHOSIS, YOU WILL SOON GAIN CONTROL OF YOUR POWERS! THE FIRST SIGNS HAVE ALREADY BEGUN--!
RMB
BOOM
MORE THAN HUMAN. . . MORE THAN ANIMAL. . . THAT MAKES YOU A THREAT TO OUR EXISTENCE . . . !
RMB
SOON IT WILL BE TOO LATE! FOR BOTH OF US!
KA
SHA
M
DAD. . . ! PLEASE. . .
IF THE ORDER AND STABILITY OF HUMAN SOCIETY IS TO BE PRESERVED, WE HAVE NO CHOICE! THE BEAST MUST BE BANISHED!

WHY . . . !?
FUMP
WH-WHY. . . ? WHY ME. . . ?
WHUMP
TO ME THAT IS MY ONLY GRACE. . .
KAZUKO DIED WITHOUT EVER KNOWING OF MY SACRED VOWS AND YOUR REAL IDENTITY. . .
D-DAD. . . YOU'RE DREAMING, RIGHT!?
TREEK
TELL ME WE'RE BOTH DREAMING, DAD!
TREEK
TREEK
TREEK
FUMP
I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT!
I DON'T GET ANY OF THIS!
!!

CHIK
CHIK
LEO!
M-MY BOY...!
RATHER THAN LIVE AS A BEAST, DIE RIGHT HERE AS A HUMAN BEING!
DIE HERE AS MY SON!

KRAKA BLAM

GROOZ
SKRAP

PIK

I'M TOO LATE!
ZAP

ZASHA

GRRR
RR
OWR!
SKRSH
SKRSH
KSH
SH
...
AH
...
KR
AK
KR
AK
THE FIRST META-MORPHOSIS!

GYAH-R

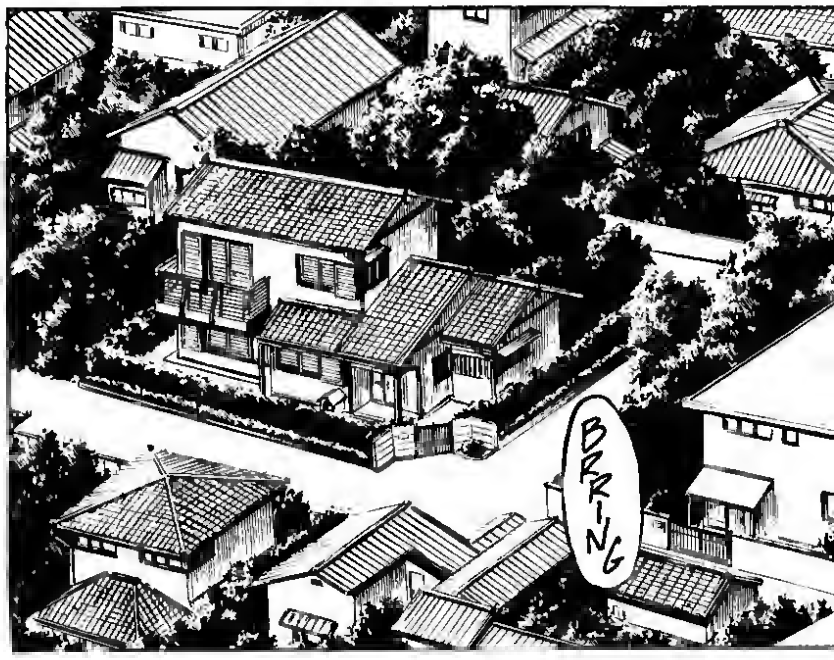
SKA
SRA
AAGH
KA TOM
BA DOOM
RRORRF
SLR
F
SLRF
UHHH
. . . LEO. . .

TAKE A ..GOOD LOOK
HH
HH
...THAT IS THE TRUE FORM OF THE BLOOD TRIBE OF THE BEAST!
RMB
RMB
RMB
RMB
BM
UFF
UFF
UFF
UFF

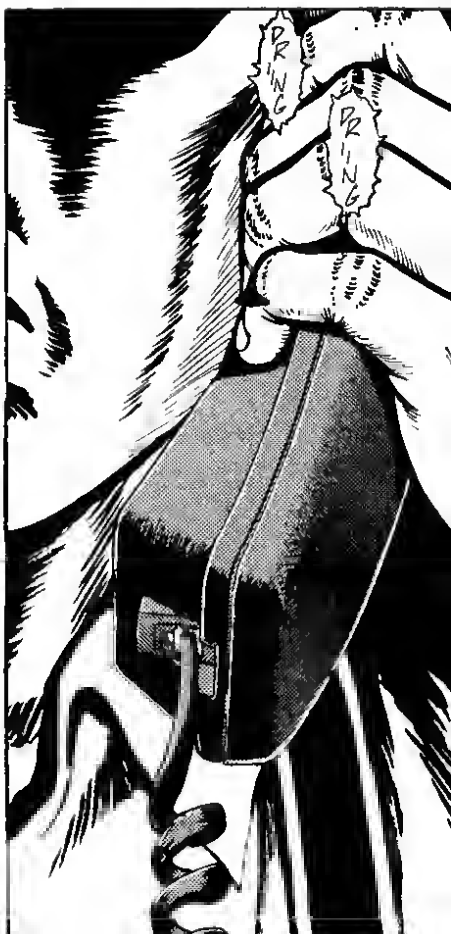
CAN YOU . . UNDER-STAND ME, LEO?
YOU ARE IN YOUR TRUE FORM NOW. . .
DO NOT LET ANYONE FIND OUT, LEO! YOU ARE ONE OF THE CURSED TRIBE OF LYCANTHROPE . . DESTINED TO BE BROUGHT DOWN. . . HUNTED . . .
I HAVE FAILED. . . BUT THERE ARE MANY MORE HUNTERS.
THEY WILL BE READY. . .
. . . WHERE I WAS NOT
. SOMEONE KNOWS, LEO -- SOMEONE CLOSE TO YOU!
BE CAREFUL, SON. . .
THEY'LL BE COMING FOR YOUR CORPSE!
I'M SO SORRY, LEO, THAT I COULDN'T. .
. . .COULDN'T . . . END YOUR CURSE CLEANLY -- KILL MY HUMAN SON. . .
. . .NOT DIE BY THE BEAST
GAAK

DAD!
NOOOO!
SKOSH
SKOSH
WH-
WHAT
IS THIS
. . . ?!
JUST
WHAT'S
. . GOING
ON. . . !?
WHAT'S
HAPPENING
TO ME--!?

VVVRRMMM
HONK
HONK


BRRING

BRRING
BRRING
BRRING
TAKIZAWA


BRRING
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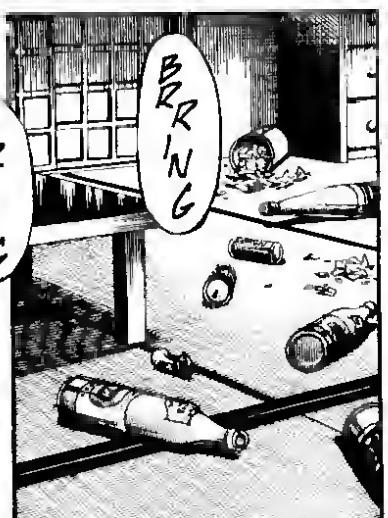
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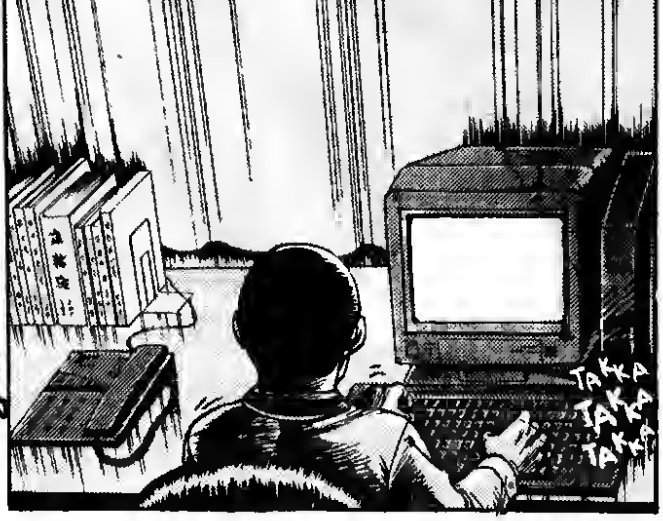
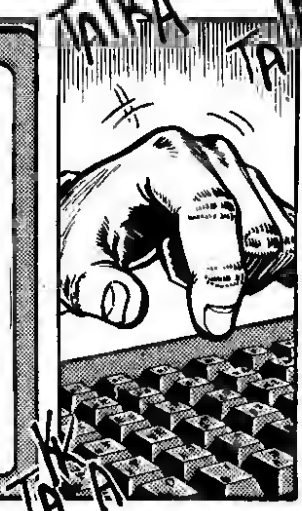



# TARGET DATA FILE #37
# LEO TAKIZAWA

TAKKA

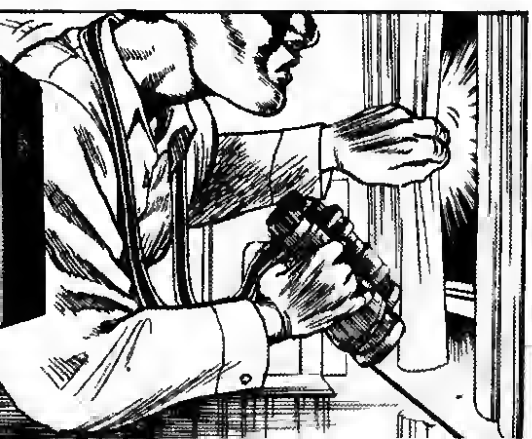
ADOPTED 17 YEARS AGO BY DETECTIVE YUAKI TAKIZAWA, KANTO DISTRICT JOHOKU STATION. OFFICIAL RECORDS REGARDING BIOLOGICAL PARENTS: NON-EXISTENT.




HIGHLY INTELLIGENT FROM EARLY YEARS. SUPERB ATHLETIC ABILITIES. TENDS TO BE THE SOLITARY TYPE. HAS A STRONG CONCERN FOR ANIMALS AND PLANTS.

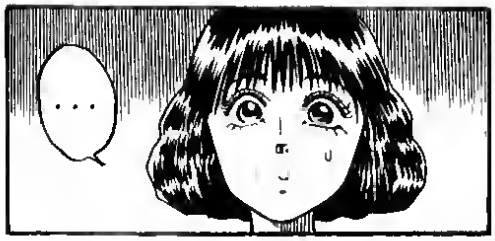
TAKK

AFTER HIS ENROLLMENT IN TATSU NO OKA HIGH SCHOOL, HE DEMONSTRATED AN EXTRA-ORDINARY GROWTH IN ATHLETIC ABILITIES.



LOOKS LIKE OUR "COMRADE" YUAKI TAKIZAWA HAS FAILED.
I DON'T PARTICULARLY LIKE PICKING UP AFTER HIS MESS
--BUT I GUESS IT CAN'T BE HELPED.
. . .MY BODY ACHES. . .
I'M NOT. . . HUMAN . . . !?
YOU'VE GOTTA BE KIDDING ME. . . !
TAKE A. . . GOOD LOOK. . .
THAT'S THE TRUE FORM OF THE BLOOD TRIBE OF THE BEAST!
NOOO!
DNG DONG
UNGH!

HELLO? THIS IS KYOKO KIRIYAMA!
IS ANYONE HOME!?
THAT'S FUNNY -- EVEN THE DOG ISN'T HERE...
THE STORM SHUTTERS ARE CLOSED...
COULD THEY BE AWAY ON A TRIP...?
CREEE
HUH!?
LEO...
ARE YOU OKAY...!?
WH-WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU!? SKIPPING SCHOOL FOR THREE DAYS WITHOUT A WORD...?
AND NO ONE ANSWERS THE PHONE WHEN I CALL...
EVERYONE ON THE TRACK TEAM IS WORRIED SICK!
HAVE YOU BEEN ILL?


...

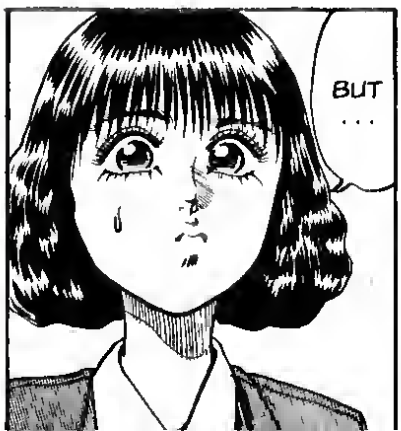
ARE YOU SURE YOU'RE ALL RIGHT?
DO YOU HAVE A FEVER?

DON'T TOUCH ME!
!!

LEO...
WHAT'S WRONG...?

AH...!
I, I'M SORRY...

SOMETHING'S UP WHAT IS IT?
IT'S OKAY..


BUT...

REALLY -- IT'S OKAY!
I'LL GO TO SCHOOL TOMORROW! JUST LEAVE ME BE!

BYE!
BAM
....!

LEO . . .
HMM. . . HE'S HIDING SOME-THING. . .
. . . AND HIS FATHER WAS NOWHERE TO BE SEEN. . .
OH, WELL!
I'LL JUST HAVE TO GET IT OUT OF HIM NEXT TIME!
I - I ALMOST COULDN'T STOP MYSELF. . .
I ALMOST TOLD EVERY-THING TO KYOKO. . .
. . . BUT WHO'D BELIEVE A STORY LIKE THIS--!?
. . . --WHEN I CAN HARDLY BELIEVE IT MYSELF. . . !
TO BE CONTINUED. . . !

Story by
KENGO KAJI
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